

Section by Section Analysis of H.R. 2608

The National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program Act of 2003

Introduced by Mr. Smith of Michigan and Mr. Baird of Washington

Section 1. Short Title.

“National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program Reauthorization Act of 2003”

Section 2. Definitions.

Defines terms used in the text.

Section 3. National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program.

Reauthorizes the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program (NEHRP) to coordinate multi-agency efforts to understand earthquake impact and reduce the hazards associated with earthquakes. This program will develop effective measures for earthquake hazards reduction; promote the adoption of those measures by Federal, State, and local governments, national standards organizations, and other relevant stakeholders; and improve the understanding of earthquakes and their effects on buildings and lifelines.

Establishes an Interagency Coordinating Committee, composed of from the directors of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the United States Geological Survey (USGS), the National Science Foundation (NSF) the Office of Science and Technology Policy, and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Designates the Director of NIST as the Chair of the Committee, and tasks the Committee with oversight, planning, management, and coordination of the Program. Requires the Committee to develop, and update periodically, a strategic plan establishing the goals and priorities for the Program, and a management plan for implementation of the strategic plan. Also requires the Committee to develop a single, coordinated, interagency budget for the Program to be submitted to OMB each year prior to the deadline for agency budget submissions.

Directs the Committee to transmit to Congress an annual report on the Program at the time of the President’s budget request. Requires the report to include: the Program budget for the current and upcoming fiscal years for each NEHRP agency; a description of the activities of the Program during the previous year, including the effectiveness of the Program in furthering the goals established in the strategic plan; and a description of the extent to which the Program has incorporated the recommendations of the Advisory Committee established in this Section.

Requires the Director of NIST to establish an external advisory committee on earthquake hazards reduction consisting of non-federal members representing research and academic institutions, industry, and State and local government. Tasks the advisory committee with assessing: trends and developments in earthquake hazards reduction science and engineering and the effectiveness of the Program, including the management, coordination, and implementation of the Program.

Requires the advisory committee to report its findings and recommendations to the Director of NIST one year after enactment, and at least once every two years thereafter.

Section 4. Authorization of Appropriations.

Authorizes appropriations for the four NEHRP Agencies: NIST, FEMA, USGS, and NSF. Funding is specifically authorized for two large projects to study earthquakes and monitor earthquake activity: the Network for Earthquake Engineering Simulation (NEES) at NSF and the Advanced National Seismic System (ANSS) at USGS.

Funding levels are in millions of dollars. Total funding authorized for fiscal years 2004-2006 is \$516.6 million.

Agency/ Program	FY 2003 (Appropriated)	FY 2004 (Authorized)	FY 2005 (Authorized)	FY 2006 (Authorized)
FEMA	18.2	18.5	20.5	22.5
NIST	2.3	8.0	9.6	12.5
NSF Total	47.1	47.0	59.0	62.5
NSF Base	33.6	39.0	44.0	47.5
NSF NEES	13.5	8.0	15.0	15.0
USGS Total	47.6	80.0	83.5	93.0
USGS Base	43.7	50.0	53.5	57.0
USGS ANSS	3.9	30.0	30.0	36.0
TOTAL	115.2	153.5	172.6	190.5

Note: For ANSS, funding is also authorized for FY 2007 and FY 2008 (\$36 million each year).